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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/627,565	07/24/2003	Kwang-Shin Lim	4591-325	3405

7590

08/24/2004

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EXAMINER

MACARTHUR, SYLVIA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1763

DATE MAILED: 08/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/627,565

Applicant(s)

LIM ET AL.

Examiner

Sylvia R MacArthur

Art Unit

1763

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 17-19 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7-15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 July 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/19/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

2. Claims 1, 2, 5, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lee (US 4,256,229).

Claim 1: Lee teaches a boat for wafer processing. Lee teaches a chamber (not shown) and a guide (boat 10) is designed for holding a plurality of wafers 11. A boat 10 (guide) includes a supporting member (bottom rods 12 and 13) and a stopper member (rails 15 and 16).

Claim 2: Figure 1 of Lee illustrates the supporting member and a stopper member having a plurality of slots, the outer circumferential edges of the wafers being inserted into the slots.

Claim 5: The slots in the supporting member and the stopper member are V-shaped.

Claim 16: Lee lists cleaning as one of the processing operations wherein his apparatus is employed.

3. Claims 1-6 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nishikiori et al (US 5,704,494).

Claim 1: Nishikiori et al teaches a disc holder 100 supporting a plurality of discs 100. Col. 1 lines 5-14 teaches a chamber (unshown). The guide 100 includes at least one supporting member (lower beams 16c or 18c and side posts 16d and 16e) and a stopper member (end wall 12).

Claim 2: Nishikiori et al teaches a supporting member and each stopper member has plurality of slots (recesses and grooves).

Claim 3: Nishikiori et al teaches the stopper member is in a higher position than a portion of the outer circumferential edge that is contacted by the supporting member as illustrated in Fig.1.

Claim 4: Nishikiori et al teaches the guide comprises a first supporting member that supports a wafer at a first point and a second supporting member that supports a wafer a second point. The second point (lower beam 18c) is lower than the first (18h)

Claim 5: The supporting member and stopper members comprise slots that are shaped like a V in Fig.1

Art Unit: 1763

Claim 6: The guide of Nishikiori teaches a third supporting member and a second supporting member are substantially symmetrical with respect to the first supporting member see 16h and 18h.

Claim 16: Nishikiori et al teaches that the disc holder is used in a chemical treatment.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 17-19 are allowed.
5. Claims 7-15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest a transfer robot as discussed in claims 7 –15.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sylvia R MacArthur whose telephone number is 571-272-1438. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F during the core hours of 8 a.m. and 2 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory L. Mills can be reached on 571-272-1439. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 1763

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Sylvia R MacArthur

Patent Examiner

Art Unit 1763

August 23, 2004